



Security Council

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Letter dated 2 June 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter dated 17 May 2021 (see annex) from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by Security Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#), based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 5 March 2021 ([S/AC.51/2021/1](#)).

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
President of the Security Council



Annex

During a closed videoconference held on 17 December 2020, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in South Sudan ([S/2020/1205](#)), covering the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020, which was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group, and the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in South Sudan on 5 March 2021 ([S/AC.51/2021/1](#)).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [1612 \(2005\)](#), [1882 \(2009\)](#), [1998 \(2011\)](#), [2068 \(2012\)](#), [2143 \(2014\)](#), [2225 \(2015\)](#) and [2427 \(2018\)](#), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, to:

(a) Encourage you to continue to call upon all parties engaged in armed conflict in South Sudan to respect fully international humanitarian law and immediately end and prevent grave violations against children in South Sudan and ensure that the protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children affected by armed conflict are taken into consideration; and note your global call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, as supported by the Security Council in its resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#);

(b) Request you to ensure that the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as other relevant United Nations agencies, in line with their respective mandates, continue and strengthen their efforts to support the South Sudanese authorities in developing and strengthening the capacity of their national institutions, to better protect children affected by armed conflict, including through the implementation of the provisions of the comprehensive action plan; in fighting impunity, including by strengthening the criminal justice system and facilitating the deployment of mobile courts; in implementing procedures to screen, divert and prevent children from recruitment and use by the national armed and security forces in South Sudan; in mainstreaming the specific needs of children affected by armed conflict and the protection of their rights in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, including through the development of a gender- and age-sensitive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and through security sector reform; in providing comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and opportunities, including access to educational opportunities, to children formerly associated with national armed forces and non-State armed groups, and training to the national armed and security forces on the protection of children; in bolstering the education and health systems; and in establishing standard operating procedures for the handover of children formerly associated with national armed forces and groups and for the protection of children in the course of military operations; and also request you to give full attention to violations against children in the application of the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces and to work to ensure all United Nations entities in the field, including peacekeeping, humanitarian and development operations, implement uniform policies to uphold standards of conduct and ensure adequate services and protection for survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse;

(c) Further request you to ensure that the country task force on monitoring and reporting in South Sudan continues its engagement with the Government of South Sudan to implement swiftly and fully all provisions of the comprehensive action plan;

and in that regard underscore the importance that the United Nations continue to support and monitor the implementation of the action plan;

(d) Request you to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions and to strengthen its monitoring and reporting activities regarding all violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict in South Sudan and of the child protection component of UNMISS;

(e) Note the various measures taken by UNMISS and troop- and police-contributing countries to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, while expressing grave concern that sexual exploitation and abuse of children by peacekeepers continued to be a serious protection concern; call for United Nations peacekeeping operations to continue to implement your zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure the full compliance of their personnel with the United Nations code of conduct; and reiterating the Working Group's request to you to continue to take all measures necessary in that regard and to keep the Security Council informed.

(Signed) Mona Juul

Chair

Security Council Working Group
on Children and Armed Conflict
